# LACC

AUGUST
1987

## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LAWRENCE ATARI COMPUTER CLUB

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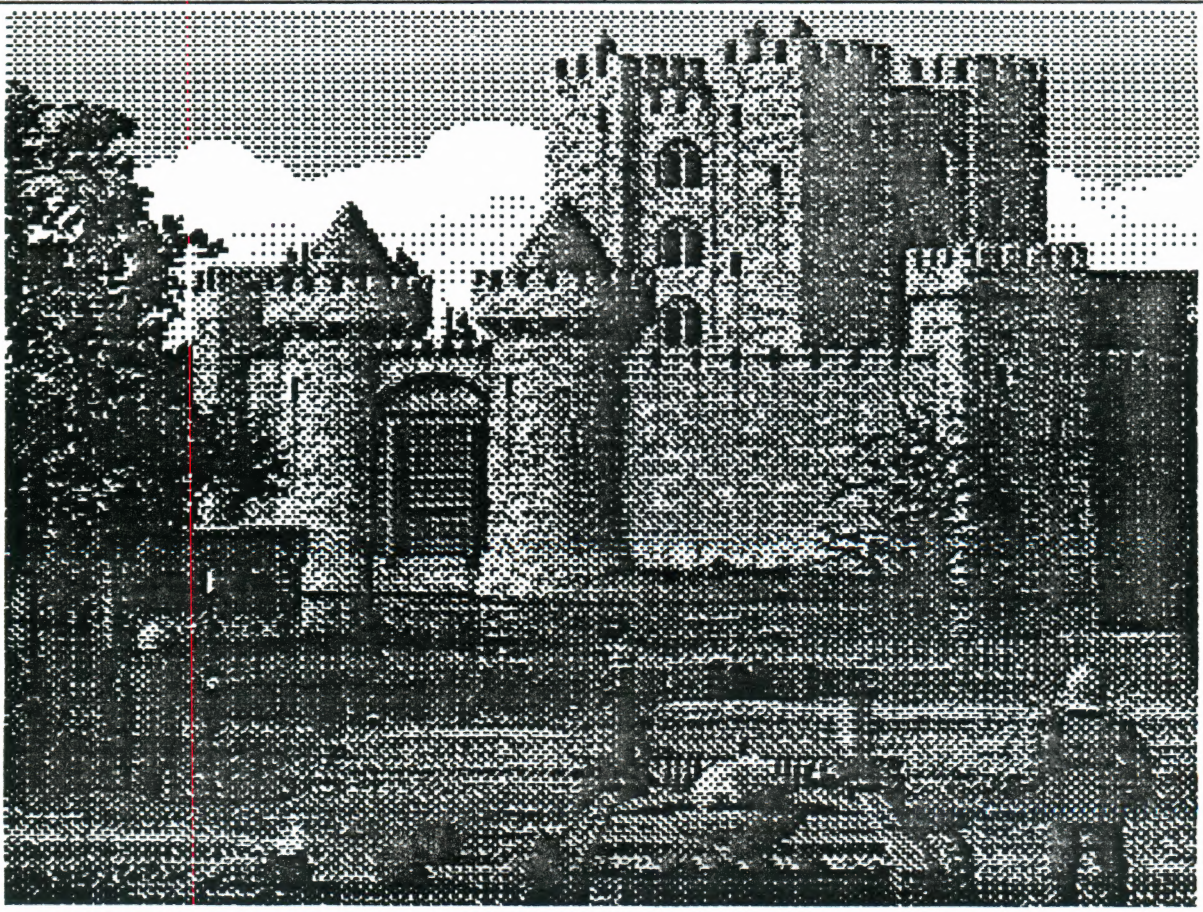


# RANDOM ACCESS

Mark Duncan - President

NEXT MEETING AGENDA - AUGUST 9

A couple of months ago, the club newsletter ran a member survey to try and determine the capabilities, interests, and uses that the LACC members put to their computers. Response was underwhelming to say the least. A grand total of 9 surveys were returned (including myself). This month's meeting will be a chance to show off what you have been doing. Now don't panic..... This is not a contest. But, I want everone to bring at least one example of an application that they use. It doesn't really have to be a from scratch program. Any type of application that does something for you will suffice. This may well is just a stigma, and people do use them as PRODUCTIVE TOOLS!

POSSIBLE CHANGE IN MEETING DATE?

One item that will be decided at the next meeting is the possibility of a change in meeting date and time. This is to be a ONE TIME change for the September meeting only. The proposal is to move it to the Thursday night that is usually reserved for the telecommunications SIG. Larry Copenhaver of the Computer Room has things to demo, but Saturday afternoons are time that is too valuable at the store. I recommend that we change the meeting for September, provided that we can arrange for a suitable location. Bob Drake has volunteered to check with the library, and will report on the regular rooms availability at the August meeting.

Once again, an out of state trip will keep me from attending the r really got off the ground. Les Lyman of the Warrensburg Atari group tried to get this organized, but could not get enough support. He couldn't even get more than two or three clubs to answer his letters. Apathy abounds.

Many complaints are heard about lack of support of 8-bit Ataris now that the STs are selling well. Frankly, the real lack of club and yourself by contributing.

ERROR - 6... out of data.....

President - Mark Duncan
Vice President - Andy Buck
Treasurer - Jeff Dunaway
Secretary - Mark Saler
Newsletter editors - Mark Almon, Mark Pennel
Librarian - Gene Ham

ST sig leader - Mark Almon
Telecommunications sig leader - Bob Drake

# TELECOMM SIG

The monthly meeting of the telecommunications sig was held on Thurs. Juilt is only a temporary BBS there was not much on it but it was interesting to see how FOREM worked.

Next, we logged onto Compuserve and read some messages in the Atari 16-bit database. There were a few messages pertaining to the Juggler program that Mark Pennel, Mark Almon, and Martin Doudoroff had uploaded to the database. We then loets; however, we could not get it to download properly due to line noise and heavy use of Compuserve at the time.

After giving up on downloading from Compuserve we logged onto Milliways and Dan Norris read and left a couple of messages on it.

The next meeting will be held at the First Southern Baptist church at 19th and Naismith at 7:00pm on Thurs. Aug.13.

# ATARI To Sell to Music Stores

Chicago- Atari Corporation Announced that it will begin selling its ST personal computer products through the nation's music stores, the first computer maker to do so.

Atari has started signing up music merchants at the NAMM International Music and Sound Expo.

Atari has prepared materials to aid dealers in presenting the ST's features to musicians and educators. Company sales representatives were on hand to distribute these materials and take advance orders at Atari's exhibit in boot 611.

"It's a natural fit for Atari," said J.J. (Jerry Brown), vice president and general manager of Atari's U.S. operations. " Music stores already sell music software. And the ST is repeatedly becoming the computer of choice for musicians because it is the price/performance leader and the only personal computer that offers MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) as a standard feature. Musicians can use an ST immediately; there is no need to buy a MIDI board."

"The Atari ST is capturing a large part of the growing music market because the MIDI port is standard, it's easy to use, and it cost far less than comparable personal computers," Brown noted. "For example, the Atari 1040ST costs about 60 percent less than the Macintosh Plus with an add-on MIDI board, and the ST has more features."

"Atari will also sell the hard disk and other peripherals through music stores," Brown added, "because they are essential components of a

full-featured music system."

Reprint from UP Beat Daily

# ANOTHER GAME MACHINE??

For years all 8-bit Atari owners have been trying to fend off the stereotype that their computers are just game machines. Do they now feel betrayed by Atari's decision to convert the 65XE into a videogame? Atari's defense is that it had difficulty selling computers to toy stores who would rather buy game machines. Now the keyboards will be sold separately as an add-on for those who want it ( an idea the old Atari had for the 2600 machine but didn't market). The real reason may be that Atari sees Nintendo selling new video games, and they forsee a resugence in that market. Atari is even marketing a light-pen type gun to plug into the XE joystick port (some of Nintendo's most popular games are the shooting gallery type).

Editorials in other newsletters have lamented the lack of new serious application software for the XI/XE line. This concession by Atari to its video game heritage probably will mean that there won't be any new Atariwriter or Syncalc programs for the 8-bit (except perhaps from Atari enthusiasts like Xlenti). It will be interesting to see just how many places you will even be able to buy a 130XE this Christmas. Will user groups be able to pick up new 8-bit members next January if customers can't find 130's? Those who buy XE's without keyboards have no interest in joining user groups. The new blood that user groups must have to survive will be drawn mainly from the ST world, out of necessity.

Eight-bit new products at the January CES went almost unnoticed. The 3 1/2 inch disk drive for the 8-bit was finally unveiled, but would you believe the DOS for this model XF354 (number sounds like a modified single-sided ST drive) still isn't finished--really high priority, huh? Atari finally confirmed the existence of its desktop 8-bit program with icons and mouse, also not complete, but admitted it may never be released on the market. It was shown only as a trial balloon to get feedback at the CES.

Eight-bit owners have a right to feel that ATari has stabbed them in the back. Remember the quote in last month's "PRINTOUT" showed that Jack wants them to buy ST's. Atari's marketing strategy suggests that XE's now are only for people who don't own computers yet or just want kids' entertainment. Even the function keys on the new XE's are pastel colored buttons designed to attract the attention of young children. If Atari really planned to support the 8-bit, you can bet the new DOS and desktop would have been available a year ago, but then more Atari owners would hvae stuck with their faithful computers instead of upgrading to the ST. Is Atari retreating from the 8-bit computer world, abandoning it to its rival Commodore, while concentrating its energies in 16-bit mass market where the Amiga may never catch up? The only people hurt by these subtle persuasions to upgrade to ST's are those who really can't afford the price tag, and the low cost support and public domain disks offered by user groups are just the ticket. Every Atari owner is at the crossroads between 8-bit and ST, a decision being forced on the marketplace. He has to consider the future and plan according to his own resources, need, and intersts. I

It's "rug-cutting time", as the old saying goes. Any comments? Write them down and send to the PRINTOUT (or the LACC)"

An editorial form the April 1987 W.A.C.O. Printout westmorland Atari Computer Organization North Huntington,

# IS The 8-bit Dead????

Sure, we've been hearing it for a couple of years now, "The ATARI 8-bit machine is DEAD!" Although Atari denies this, I've compiled a few interesting facts, (note I said facts, not rumors, which in the past is all we have had to go on), that demonstrates clearly to me that the 8-bit is dead.

For instance, if you insert a PAC-MAN cartridge upside-down into a 1200XL and turn it on, "Clyde" will appear, saying what sounds to me like "I buried an 8-bit!" Scary, isn't it. There are many of these hidden clues all over, if you just look for them.

One of the last pieces of software that Atari has put out for the 8-bits, was Atari PLANETARIUM. Boot that program and look at the constellation ARA (which, by the way, means ALTAR in English) with the lines option engaged. Using the stars as dots and the lines as dashes, you can make out, in Morse Code, the phrase "8B8 IF", which of course means that the 8-Bits would be 8 years old IF they had lived. How can you argue with proof like that? This could not be just an accident.

These hints of the death of the 8-bits have been coming for quite some time. Take a look at the cover of ANALOG #44. There you will see a picture of what appears to be an operation being performed on an Atari ST. And what is found inside, looking like a malignant tumor? A 130XE! Although that is pretty blatant, there is also a subtle clue on that cover. In yellow on that cover are the names of three articles inside the magazine for the 8-bits,

"Arm Your Atari", "Ramcopy", and "8-bit Parallel Interface". The initials of these titles are "A Y A R 8 B P I", which is an anagram for "RIP 8-BIT YAAI". How much clearer could they make it? They are not only stating that the 8-bits are dead, but that they are glad of it.

Still not convinced? You people are hard to please. OK, grab your copy of the April 87 ANTIC. Look at the cover and what do you see? A bunch of IRS men chasing a couple of guys carrying banners that say "130XE". Now think, what does that mean? I SAID THINK!! That's right, only two things are inevitable, DEATH and TAXES. What at first glance appears to be a simple "tax-time" issue, in fact is clear proof that the 8-bits are dead.

These are only a few examples of what you can find if you only look with an open mind. But most people don't want to see these things, because they don't wnat to face the facts.

I can't understand why Atari doesn't just come right out and announce that the 8-bits are dead. It has been proven in the past that these charades don't work. When Elvis died in 1963, no one believed that fat lookalike they got to replace him was really Elvis. When the lookalike died in 1977, no one bothered to try and get a replacement. When Paul McCartney died in a car-train accident in the late 60's, the remaining Beatles denied it, while all the time giving clues to his death in songs and on album covers, much like the clues showing up for Atari's 8-bits today. We aren't stupid, and we know what's going on. We also know that Andy Kaufman is working for Atari, but that is another story.

Like I mentioned before, death and taxes are inevitable. So lets raise our glass to our fallen friend, and also toast our new found friend, the ST. "The King is dead, long like the King".

By John B. Sloop

Reprinted from the April 1987 Pacus Report Newsletter of the Packerland Atari Computer users society.

# ZMAG JUNE, 1987 ISSUE 57

We'll start with the good news for 8-bit users. The XF551 disk drive is the big surprise. It's a compact 5 1/4 inch drive in XE gray, about 3/4 the size of the now discontinued 1050 drive and priced in about the same $160 range as the 1050. The XF551 is also claimed to be 2.9 times faster than a 1050 and boasts true double density-- as well as automatic compatibility with every other density format ever used for the 8-bit Atari. It seemed clear from talking to a number of Atari sources that a 3 1/2 inch disk drive for the 8-bit computers is now unlikely to be produce.

The XF551 drive will have a new ADDS operating system which is nearing completion by OSS, the creators of DOS 2 and DOS 2.5. Promised features of ADDS include a tree structure allowing directories and easy toggle between menu or command operations.

According to Atari's Jose Lopes, the key engineer/designer of the new XE products described in this dispatch, the first XF551 drives can be expected to start trickling into the stores by July. The same July arrival date now holds true for the 80-column XEP80 display box and the new 1200 baud SX212 modem. Valdes says both products have been delayed by a wait for delivery of main chips, but all other components and packaging are stockpiled in readiness for assembly at ATari's Taiwan factory.

AtariWriter Plus 80 was operating on the XEP80 in a razor-sharp 80-column display at the Atari Booth. The SX212 modem will be bundled with a new version of Keith Ledbetter's famed Express software which the author is scheduled to demonstrate later in the show.

# ISSUE 58

I received news this week about the current status of the ST Transformer. ANALOG MAGAZINE is purchasing the program and it will appear in the August or September issue. Stay tuned for details....

(From ED HAUG ... There are some copy programs out that un-copyprotect some 8-bit programs. Now that the Transformer is soon to be here, there is an honest reason to have this kind of copy program. The only way to get a copy protected 8-bit program to run on the ST will be to transfer an un-copyprotected version to your ST. The key used with PaperClip may also work on the ST. I sure hope so.)

# IBM EMULATOR UPDATE

I spent awhile on the phone with Avant-Garde (like three hours) talking about PC-DITTO, so I thought I'd pass some info along, since there's a lot of curiosity about it.

Jerry called me up from Comdex and said it was amazingly good. He'd done all the things like under the table for a PC or inside for an 8088; it's a software emulator, all right. Then, he got a bunch of his own software to test it on... and lo and behold, it worked. He ran LapLink and DesqView on it, and

while he says it's slow, it does work. Apparently the emulation is at the chip level.

The guy who did it is an ex-IBM'er and sales type -- he was a pro salesman, believe me -- who's working on it with his wife. Mom and pop shop, so to speak. They've had lots of marketing offers and are very very busy. Don't expect to get through on the phone, it's always busy.

My own experience with emulators is that you lose a 4X in clock speed with necessary overhead. So I'd expect about a 1-2 Mhz IBM out of his. The good thing is that I/O is done at 68000 speed, 8 Mhz, so it will only appear slow when you get computation-bound..like recalcing a spreadsheet. Burt just copying files, etc., it ought to scream along pretty nicely.

The big thing that they told me was they wanted everyone to know they weren't connected at all with the MS-EM people. Apparently they had received mucho negative feedback on that other product.

They've tested and certified it with lots of different IBM products; they went through a top-40 IBM product list and it ran all that stuff. The guy who's doing it sounds technically competent and is a good salesman.

Caveat: this is all based on a telephone conversation, but he does know what he's doing with emulators, and it's for real.

I'd suggest getting them online on CIS a.s.a.p. to answer questions. It sounds like it'll be a good product.

Courtesy CompuServes Atari 16
PC-Ditto - David and Sandy Small

# SUPER SHORT-CUT FOR YOUR 8-BIT SYSTEM

Assembled from many various sources

1. QUICK RAM CHECK

Checks ram from just below basic down to location 10.
10 ? FRE(0): GOSUB 10
Type RUN and the screen should show numbers down left side counting DOWN BY 4 locations. It should end with;
ERROR- 2 AT LINE 10

2. GTIA or CTIA

Some older systems had CTIA video chip and could not display the newer modes of graphics.
10 GRAPHICS 10
20 GOTO 20
Type RUN. If the screen goes black, then you have the new GTIA. If it goes blue, you have the CTIA and should upgrade.

3. A or B rev. ROMS

Older systems had "A" ROMS and they had some bugs. "B" ROMS corrected them.

? PEEK (58383)

"B" ROMS-0...."A" ROMS were generally 56, but anything other than 0.

4. MORE ON ROMS

? PEEK (64738)

If-162 then 400/800 system, otherwise, XL

? PEEK (65528) 400/800 only
221-"A" ROM
214-"A" PAL ROM
243-"B" ROM
34-"B" PAL ROM

? PEEK (65527) XL only
10-1200 XL 1st Rev.
11-1200 XL 2nd Rev.

|+<|]u<
2
P4lmY 1-600/800 XL 1st Rev.
2-600/800 XL 2nd Rev.

5. WHICH BASIC REV. DO YOU HAVE?

? PEEK (43234)

162-Rev. A (Almost all 400/800)
96-Rev. B (Early XL's. Many serious bugs. Get Rev. C.)
234-Rev. C (latest and greatest.)

6. TO FORCE A COLD START!

Type A-USR(61733) for 400/800
A-USR(58487) for 1200 XL
A-USR(58484) for 1200 XL WARM START

7. TURN OFF ANTIC

To speed up processing (like when doing sorts), turn off ANTIC. (Screen goes Black.)

POKE 559,0-off...POKE 559,34-on

If your screen is set up with a picture (format) that you want back, then first PEEK (559), and save the value. When you want to restore it, just POKE that same value back into location 559.

8. DISABLE THE BREAK KEY

You may want to protect your program from someone using the BREAK key to stop it.

POKE 16,64 and POKE 53774,16 at the start and after each GRAPHIC command.

9. REBOOT WITH RESET KEY

You may want to force a re-boot from disk if someone hits the reset key, perhaps in order to break into and list your Basic program.

POKE 580,1 in your program

10. DISABLE THE KEYBOARD

To disable the keys of the keyboard from your program- POKE 16,255

11. MAKE YOUR BASIC PROGRAM UNLISTABLE

You may want to protect your Basic program so no one can "See" your code.
1) POKE 202,1...will erase your program after anything that causes the "READY" prompt ie..END or RESET or BREAK.
2) Add the following line to your program. MAKE SURE YOUR HAVE A BACKUP OF YOUR PROGRAM WITHOUT THIS LINE!!
32767 POKE PEEK (138)+256*PEEK (139)+2,0: SAVE "D:Filename":NEW
Type..GOTO 32767.
The program can be executed, but not listed!
|]+<|2|5t00>0 0 ff-(12. TURN OFF BEEPS WHEN LOADING PROGRAMS

POKE 65,0-off....POKE 65,3-on

13. START THE ATTRACT MODE

POKE 77,129

14. OUTPUT TO PRINTER INSTEAD OF SCREEN

POKE 838,166: POKE 839,238

Back to the screen!!

POKE 838,163: POKE 139,246
|15

# ST Disk of the Month

Well, here it is. The LACC Disk of the Month for August, 1987. I think that most of you will of find something of interest on here. This disk contains some of the best utilities on the ST, and the following is a description of the files:

ARC.TTP- This program will allow you to compress multiple files into one, smaller file. Great for shooting files over the modem. STARC.PRG gives a shell for beginners, advanced users will want to just run ARC.TTP.

ACC_LOAD.PRG- Program that will let you decide which desk accessories to load in at boot time.

BITMASTR.PRG- This program will let you analyze and edit sectors on a disk. Useful for trying to salvage trashed files.

COLOR.PRG- A short program that will turn your desktop background a deep blue. Hey, it may not be great, but it was the first program I wrote on the ST.

DCFORMAT.PRG- This is a really handy program that allows you to format and copy disks in variety of formats: Single and Double sided; extended; Magic Sac and IBM.

DOCOPY19.TOS- This program gives you a Command Line interface, so that you can type in your DOS commands. Great for doing wildcard operations. It will also convert text files into ascii, and has a built in ARC.

FASTRAMD.PRG- Program that will let you set up a ram disk of any size.

MEGABLIT.PRG- Advanced drawing program that allows you to work on drawings that are larger than the screen.

NEOFUN.PRG- An interesting little program that

allows you to create different effects with Neo pictures.

PRINTDIR.PRG- A useful program that prints out the contents of a disk, including folders and their contents.

RAMDSK.PRG- A ramdisk that will survive resets, though it is limited to preset sizes.

STARTGEM.PRG- This program will allow you to autoboot ANY program.

CALCULAT.ACC- A desk accessory calculator that will work in decimal, binary, octal, and hexadecimal.

DISTO.PRG- Now you can keep track of what files are on your disks. Just insert a disk, and this program will read in the directory; and allow you to sort and search through your files.

MINIDOS.ACC- You are now able to perform DOS commands from your favorite GEM program without quitting back to the desktop.

NEWWORD.ACC- A word processor is now just a click away from any GEM program. A very good way to compose short notes and letters.

RAMBUFFER.ACC- This desk accessory will allow you to set up a amdisk and print spooler; and later, you can remove them without re-booting.

SLOWDOWN.TOS- This program will let you slow down your ST to a crawl. Great for slowing down tough arcade games to a speed that you can play easier.

Well, that's about it for this month. And the price for all of these great programs? A mere $4.00, and that includes the disk that they are on. Next month, look for a disk of games.

--Mark Almon (your fearless SIG leader and librarian)

## For Sale

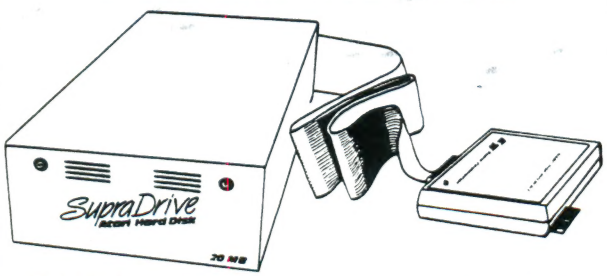
One Atari 810 disk drive, needs some work done it, but I don't exactly know what is wrong.
Thirty dollars or best offer.

------Mark Almon


Buy From The

# Hard Disk Experts!

## ATARI XL/XE

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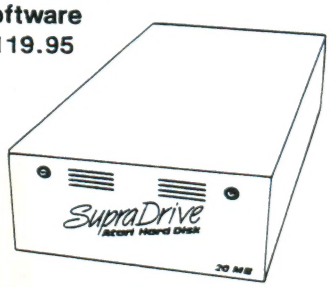


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# Agenda

**AUGUST 8, 1987 Lawrence Public Library Auditorium**

12:00 ST SIG
1:00 Set-up
1:30 Business meeting
2:00 Program -?
4:00 Meeting adjournment, libraries closed

The ST SIG meets at noon the day of the meeting in the Lawrence Public Library auditorium. The next meeting is on August 8th.

The telecommnications SIG meets on the Thursday after the Baptist Church at 19th and Naismith at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on August 15.

Everyone should be sure to come to the ST SIG at 12 p.m., before the regular meeting. We will be demoing the "best of" ST software, as well as some new titles. Bring your favorite program to show the club, and we'll see you there!

A newsletter without YOUR article is like a day without sunshine.

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